



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF AMERICA**

**YOUTH...**

## **LEADERS OF THE FUTURE**

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**B&GCA: MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN INDIAN COMMUNITIES**

### **IMPLEMENTATION TRAINING IN SEATTLE VERY SUCCESSFUL**

"The interest in Boys & Girls Clubs of America right now is unbelievable. People want to do something for youth in their communities," said Ronald S. Moeckel, B&GCA Regional Service Director, Pacific Service Center, Long Beach, CA.

Mr. Moeckel, who was in Seattle for a two-day B&GCA training session designed for Tribes to explore the feasibility of starting, promoting, and supporting a B&GCA for Indian youth, explained that, "To get started, what is really needed is a 'spark plug', an individual to make it happen."

Over 100 Tribal representatives attended the session and gained an understanding of the organizational relationships between IHAs, Tribal organizations, and the B&GCA. They also reviewed HUD, B&GCA and other funding options to support establishing a local B&GC to serve Indian youth.

"There are certain things that have to happen to be part of any organization. There are so many communities that want to do it--but it is a long hard road to get there. You cannot just get grants, stamp B&GCA on a brochure, and run a program until the grants run out--this is a long term program," Mr. Moeckel continued.

If community resources (long-term commitment and funding) are not such that a Tribal Boys and Girls Club could be a viable program, "Get yourself hooked up with another Boys and Girls Club--that's the key."

B&GCA clubs are now operating at 21 sites in Indian Country, with more on the drawing board. Several existing clubs were represented at the session and shared, first-hand, the experiences of forming and operating a B&GC to serve the needs of Indian youth and to benefit the community. To enhance the training experience, the Tulalip Tribes Community hosted a dinner and site visit for all the participants to tour their new Boys & Girls Club facility.

Mr. Moeckel stressed the importance of a B&GC to a community, "This is a youth development program--not just keeping kids off the street and bouncing a basketball--in the long term, BCGA will make a difference in the community."

### **POSITIVE ALTERNATIVE FOR NATIVE YOUTH: Implementation Training in Southwest**

In an effort to promote positive alternatives for Native youth, ONAP has teamed with Boys & Girls Clubs of America to promote comprehensive club development in Indian communities.

In January, a regional implementation conference for IHAs and Resident Leaders was held in Phoenix, Arizona. In attendance were IHA and tribal leaders, resident leaders, and others from across the country with an interest in youth development programming and successful drug and crime prevention activities.

Presentations at the conference included a brief history of B&GCA and discussion of the "mission" of the organization, as well as practical information on how to assess the feasibility of starting, promoting and supporting a B&GC for Indian youth on or near Indian land.

Speakers included trained organizing officials from the B&GCA's national office, staff involved with the day-to-day operation of active clubs, and several youth who have benefitted from their experiences at a local club.

During the conference, the participants were treated to a "field trip" to the St. Johns community on the Gila River reservation for purposes of touring and learning about the operation of an active B&GC in a Native American community. Upon arriving at the site participants were welcomed by the Gila River Tribal Governor, Ms. Mary Thomas, who spoke glowingly about the positive effects the club was having on Gila River tribal youth.

The Gila River Tribe is so pleased with its experiences with the B&GC in the St. Johns community that the Tribe is actively working with B&GCA Regional Service Representative, Dennis Marcello, to open a second club in the Gila River community of Sacaton.

As a result of the conference, Mr. Marcello also has follow-up meetings scheduled with White Mountain Apache and San Carlos Apache tribal officials to explore the possibilities of establish B&GCs on their respective reservations.

Fort Mohave tribal officials were so impressed by the conference that they subsequently visited the B&GC in Bullhead City, AZ, to learn more about the operation of the clubs and are working on establishing a club on their reservation.

## **TULALIP B&GC FACILITY GRAND OPENING**

### **"Where Children are the Priority"...**

"This is the first time in Washington state that a Boys & Girls Club has been built on an Indian reservation, said Stan Jones, Sr., Chairman of the Tulalip Tribes, at the official ribbon cutting ceremonies February 15. He added, "We're extremely proud that our community pulled together to build this for our children."

The ceremonies were to dedicate the new building and publicly thank all those people and organizations who had a part in this vast project. It was over two years ago that the Tulalip Tribes first met with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Snohomish County and key business leaders of the neighboring city of Marysville to discuss establishing a Boys & Girls Club on tribal land.

The Club immediately became a popular place for young boys and girls to congregate when it began offering after school and summer Super School programs to serve the needs of all youth in the community. Terry Freeman, Club Director, stated, "What makes our Tulalip Club so unique is the wide mix of programs that we're offering to our kids. We offer sports activities, as well as educational and cultural opportunities."

The Tulalip Tribal Council had long dreamed of having their own facility to house the youth of Tulalip. The Tulalip Club, which was chartered by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America in 1995, is a unit of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Snohomish County. The construction on the new 1.4 million dollar Club building--20,000 sq. ft. building--across the road from the Tulalip Elementary School took almost a year. The Tulalip B&G Club is already averaging 130 kids a day for after school activities.

## **OPENING THE DOORS: B&GCA IN ALASKA VILLAGES**

In partnership with the National Boys and Girls Clubs of America, HUD ONAP sponsored a series of workshops with the last held February in Seattle, Washington. This training, aimed at expanding Boys and Girls Clubs in Native and Alaskan communities, included 23 participants from 15 different communities in Alaska.

As a direct result of their attendance, eight communities have initiated efforts to create Boys and Girls Club organizations. Two areas of the State, Bristol Bay

(with 31 villages) and AVCP Region (with 56 villages) are exploring options to become regional organizations for the Boys and Girls Clubs.

Within the Bristol Bay region, the four communities of New Stuyahok, Naknek, South Naknek, King Salmon and Dillingham will be opening their doors within the next 30 days. These efforts are jointly shared with the Anchorage Boys and Girls Club, Bristol Bay Housing Authority, the U.S. Air Force at Elmendorf, the local school districts; tribal organizations, Native corporations, local cities, and a host of youth councils. These communities and organizations have committed their time, efforts, property, and funds for the development of these clubs.

**In rural Alaska, it is felt that Boys and Girls Clubs have a strong and positive impact in the community, with involvement by the youth and the elderly, thereby ensuring cultural restoration as well as promoting new ideas.**

## **GO TEAM !!**

The Chiloquin High School in Klamath County, Oregon, boasts a team of tournament-winning students. Not the usual sporting team, this team has recently become the **Oregon State 3A Brain Bowl Champions**.

The 5-member team includes two Klamath Tribal members:

**E. J. Miller**, who is the only sophomore on the team, has for the past 2 years ranked in the top 1% in the nation on the Annual Scholastic Standard Achievements Tests. E.J. also is an honored player on both the high school basketball and baseball teams.

When asked about the competition, **Gina Hutchinson**--a Junior-- stated, "Being on the Team requires work and dedication...A lot of people are smart, but to be good at this you have to be able to quickly recall information and have fast reflexes."

The squad will next compete in Orlando, Florida, in the 1997 Panasonic Academic Challenge, in June.